

Augusto PINOCHET Ugarte
(Phonetic: peenohCHAY)

CHILE

President: Commander in
Chief of the Army

Addressed as:
Mr. President



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Army Commander since August 1973, Maj. Gen. Augusto Pinochet, 60, became President after he led the September 1973 coup against President (1970-73) Salvador Allende. Pinochet is totally dedicated to the establishment in Chile of a new political and economic order free of all vestiges of Marxism. He dislikes politicians of all persuasions and blames them for the problems that necessitated the coup. The President will not tolerate any opposition to the government or to its goal Of national reconstruction.

Pinochet has a concern for people, and his frequent public appearances throughout Chile have at times given him the semblance of a grassroots politician. He is genuinely popular in Chile despite severe personal criticism from abroad. The President admires the United States, but he has been unhappy at the attempts in Congress to stop the flow of US military aid to Chile. He has been to the United States at least three times.

Generally considered tough, rigid and disciplined, Pinochet has been described as warm and friendly by journalists who have interviewed him. He does not smoke but drinks in moderation. He enjoys reading and writing. He has written at least three books on geography, one of which has been used as a high school text. Harried to the former Lucia Hiriart, the President has five children and seven grandchildren. He speaks some French and a little English.

28 April 1976

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INTELLIGENCE SOURCES/AND METHODS INVOLVEDAugusto PINOCHET Ugarte
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To international critics, Pinochet is the personification of the evils they see in Chile. Defensive in the face of criticism, he recognizes that there are human rights abuses in the country, but he has been unwilling or unable to effect the significant improvements demanded. The President has been outspokenly indignant at attempts to stop the flow of US military aid to Chile, reserving particular wrath for Senator Edward Kennedy, who has led such efforts. Pinochet is nevertheless genuinely popular in Chile. His frequent public appearances throughout the country have at times given him the semblance of a grassroots politician, and he has expressed a desire to be an elected President one day.

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Outwardly tough, rigid and disciplined, Pinochet can be warm and fatherly. He is straightforward and forceful and is occasionally impulsive in his public comments. He has visited the United States at least three times. Married to the former Lucia Hiriart, the President has five children and seven grandchildren. He speaks only a little English.

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